

Newsletter May 2017



Blue and Gold Alumni Association Inc.

Incorporating Adelaide Technical High School, Glenunga High School and Glenunga International High School

Welcome to this Newsletter of the Blue and Gold Alumni Association for the Subscription year of 2017. Its purpose is to advise members of coming events, to provide information about forthcoming activities of the Association and to report on events that have taken place since the last Newsletter.

Please note that subscriptions for 2017 are now due. Subscription Forms are attached to this newsletter for those former members who have not renewed their subscriptions for this year. If there is no form attached then you are a current member.

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Report on AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at the home of the President on 19 March 2017. Attendance was 16 members plus 3 guests with formal apologies from a further 23 members, 10 of whom lodged proxies. The President declared that a quorum was present and the meeting proceeded in accordance with the published Agenda.

After approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2016 the following matters were discussed:

- Website
The present website was considered unsatisfactory and the Committee was urged to take whatever action necessary to bring it to a satisfactory standard. It was considered that an Association Facebook page with links to the website would better serve the needs of younger members who we were hoping to attract.
- Recruitment
Attempts to recruit younger members from recent graduates of GHS have proven unsuccessful, despite surveys of final year students carried out over the last two years. We will now concentrate our efforts on recruiting people from the earlier years of GHS and GIHS.
- Archives
The President confirmed that there had been no issues raised by members over the issue of copyright in respect of the association's archives now held by the State Library. That being so the Deed of Deposit was to be signed and sealed at the meeting.

The President, Treasurer and Secretary then presented their reports on the Association for 2016, all of which were approved by the members present.

After declaring all Committee positions vacant the election of officers for 2017 took place. There was only one nomination for the position of President and David Stoba was duly elected. All committee members from 2016 agreed to stand again in 2017 and as there were no further nominations, were elected with the positions on the committee to be decided at its first meeting.

Following that Committee Meeting held on 3 April 2017 the Committee positions are:

President	David Stoba
Vice Presidents	Phillippa Horsell Neil Merkel
Treasurer	Tom Frossinakis
Secretary	Warren West
Membership Secretary	Ian Saunders
Committee Members	Mark Brindal Sue Thomson

President's Pages

In the last newsletter, I wrote that the main challenge continues to be the future via ability of the Blue and Gold Alumni Association and I further expanded on this matter in the article "The Challenge" in the 2016 magazine published earlier this year. It still is.

Surveys of year 12 students in 2015 and 2016 indicated that most would join if the association offered them the services they wanted at an acceptable subscription fee. The question that we need to answer is what services do they want. The fact that virtually no recent graduates have joined the association is indicative that we are obviously not offering what they want.

Committee members Mark Brindle and Ian Saunders with input from Peter Carter prepared two brochures - one aimed at year 12 graduates and one at their parents. These brochures were printed by the school and given to the students and parents at the Graduation Ceremony held in October last year. The message was "Maintain the Link". A membership form was included but unfortunately no one took up the offer.

We have established a subcommittee to look at what social functions we should be holding to cater for both our older members and the younger members that we are hoping to attract, including less formal evening or weekend functions. The surveys of year 12 students indicated they were interested in dinners, lunches and barbecue/picnics held at a frequency of once or more a year.

Ms Wendy Johnson, the Principal of Glenunga International High School, firmly believes that the target market for the Alumni Association are those that graduated about five years ago rather than those that are starting tertiary studies or taking a "gap" year. The other key factor is that these potential members are what are termed the "social media" generation- Facebook, Twitter, texting are their preferred means of communication. To this end, GIHS has assigned a staff member to set up a database based on records from the past 10 years which are held by the school. Earlier records are held in the Education Department archives which can only be accessed through the school. This database will form the basis of contacting students or their parents with an invitation to "Maintain the Link".

A similar data-collecting exercise was conducted by members of the AHS Old Scholars' Association several years ago and a list of enrolments for the period 1964 to 1975 was compiled, but no effective follow-up action was taken. At Wendy Johnson's request, this list has been provided to GIHS for possible action.

In parallel with this, our association is establishing a Facebook page to augment our existing webpage. This leads me to the topic of the website. We appreciate that we need to make it more attractive to both our existing and potential members. Major criticism of the website has been that there are no photos of recent or past social events. We are considering a major revamp of the website and in the meantime, I plan to assume the role as administrator so that we can upload as many of these photos as is practicable. The association invested in an external hard drive some years ago which has been in storage and contains many such photos. In addition, I have borrowed from the Public Library Archives the DVDs that were lodged there when our archivist Judy McKeough retired. These also

contain photographic records of events and functions which will be considered for uploading onto the website.

The obvious question is what about “the gap” i.e. the period from 1974 when Adelaide Technical High School became Glenunga High School until 1990 when the school became Glenunga International High School i.e. the “GHS years”.

In my report at the AGM, I mention that I had recently contacted a past GHS student, Lara Quinn, who had posted a message in the guestbook of our website late last year. In August last year, Lara out of frustration at the lack of interest shown by GIHS of anything pre-1990, created a closed group Facebook page aimed initially at the 1974-1990 students but later expanded, due to interest from students that had attended AHS at Glenunga. It is now titled “AHS/Glenunga High 1963 – 90” and currently has over 1000 members. She explained that when she was organising a 20-year reunion in 2006, she found that GIHS lacked interest and the old scholars group was even less interested.

I met with her recently to discuss how we may cooperate. I reiterated our aims and explained the cooperation that we are receiving from the principal and staff of GIHS. She mentioned that some of her members had indicated an interest in the alumni association but she still had reservations about how supportive the association would be based on her experience. I undertook to raise several points with Wendy Johnson at my next regular meeting. These included questions about buried time capsules, memorial plaques and the possibility of arranging an open day visit for some of the GHS old scholars. As promised, I raised them and Wendy is investigating the time capsules and plaques and is agreeable to an open day or “homecoming”.

In addition to the Sidney Moyle and Cedric J Cannell International baccalaureate scholarships, the association presents AHS Commemoration Prizes to the DUXs of the SACE and IB courses based on the end of year external examinations. The Alumni Association President presents the scholarships and prizes at the Celebration Assembly held at the school in February. As mentioned in the 2016 Magazine and in my AGM report, consideration is being given to changing the terms of the AHS Commemoration Prizes. It is proposed that the prizes be replaced by a suitably named award presented at the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony as one of the special awards – like the GIHS Patron’s Award. The award could be broader based to consider other factors giving greater scope in deciding recipients and would provide more exposure for the Alumni Association as the ceremony is attended by all year 12 students and about 700 family and friends. I have discussed this with Wendy Johnson who agrees with the proposal.

In closing, I ask you to remember that the committee is there to represent you and welcomes suggestions and comments from all members.

Thank you.

David Stoba

New Patron

Members will be aware that our founding Patron, Dr. Don Beard decided to stand down at the end of 2015 after many years of sterling support. After consideration of a number of potential replacements the Committee is delighted to announce that Mr. Graham Maguire BEc(Hons) (Adel), MEd (ANU) has agreed to become our Patron.

Graham served both State and Federal Governments in a variety of roles before being elected as a Senator for South Australia where he served for ten years. On leaving parliament Graham has become a Board member of a number of organisations. He was also an inaugural member of the Adelaide Technical High School Old Scholars Association, serving as a Committee member and later playing a major role in the setting up of the ATHSOSA database which at last count had the names and contact details of well over eight thousand former students. More details of Graham's career will be provided in a later Newsletter.

We welcome Graham as our new patron and look forward to a long and fruitful association with him.

Know Your Committee

The following summaries of the careers of some of the Committee members are included to enable members to get to know the people they have chosen to guide the Association's activities into the future. The career summaries of the remaining members will be provided in the next Newsletter.

David Stoba - President

After matriculating in 1954 I spent three years at Adelaide University, worked for a year in Tasmania and then joined British Tube Mills at Kilburn where I remained for 35 years, the last 10 as Quality Manager. During that time I completed a Bachelor of Applied Science degree. On closure of the BTM plant I became a consultant to industry generally on quality-related matters.

In parallel with my civilian career I spent 30 years in the Army Reserve, retiring with the rank of Colonel. During that time, my late wife (who died in 1995) and I operated a Saxon merino sheep stud at Gumeracha. During a vacation in Europe I met a lady from Texas and we married in 1998 and I have now retired from consulting and farming, preferring to travel.

I joined the Adelaide Tech Old Scholars Association Committee in 2006 and served in several positions before becoming President in 2016.

Warren West - Secretary

My choice of Adelaide Tech was forced on me because my mother was an old scholar and because I wasn't able to go to Adelaide High due to school zoning. Going to ATHS was a decision I never regretted. Beginning in 1953 I completed Leaving Honours in 1956 when I was Head Prefect and Captain of Cavendish House. From school I began an engineering degree, joining the Electricity Trust as a cadet. After graduation I worked as an engineer for ETSA for 20 years before joining SA Brewing Company as Assistant Chief Engineer and later

becoming Operations Manager. In 1994 I started my own engineering consultancy which is still in operation.

I first joined the ATHSOSA Committee in 2007, becoming secretary in 2009 and then retiring at the end of 2013 because of health problems. I re-joined the Committee, taking over the Secretary position, in mid-2016.

Ian Saunders – Membership Secretary

After primary school, I wanted to attend Goodwood Boys Tech but a mother's influence saw me at ATHS for those formative years 1951 to 1955 where academically I sat in the middle of the class and for the five years, remained in that position. Adelaide Teacher's College beckoned in 1956, with the compulsory short stint in National Service in 1957 and in 1959 teaching began at Cleve Area School.

Back to Adelaide in 1963 I taught in various Technical High Schools before travelling in 1966 to Ontario, Canada on a one year teacher exchange programme. After Canada, it was as Senior Master at Enfield High, cajoled into a move into Adult Education, then Onkaparinga AEC as Vice Principal. From there it was as Head School of General Studies at Panorama College of TAFE with a one year secondment to work with the Australian Committee on Technical and Further Education in Canberra.

Various roles followed as a TAFE Principal, Director, a stint TAFE Head Office Adelaide and in 1989, Director again retiring from TAFE in 1993. Retirement aside, it was then to manage a community not for profit drug education programme across primary and secondary schools.

In 2002, my wife Mary created our own company, Sage Insights Australia Pty Ltd, a program for the training of management in the corporate world in better communications. It was launched in 2003 in Queensland, finishing in 2014 with a variety of corporate clients. It was during this time in 2013 in Queensland, I fostered an unofficial Qld based gathering of ATHS and GHS former scholars for a reunion lunch. It has been repeated each year since with the hope of catching more Glenunga High and Glenunga International HS former scholars living in Qld.

Sue Thomson – Social Secretary

I attended the "new" school at Glenunga from 1966 to 1970, becoming Head prefect in my final year. After leaving school I became a Junior Primary teacher for two years before retiring to start a family which grew to three children. When the children were all at school I returned to teaching as a relief teacher for the next 25 – 30 years from which I have now retired to enjoy my grandchildren and trading in antiques.

Mark Brindal – Past President/Minute Secretary

The eldest grandson of “Darby” Haskard, I attended AHS from 1960 to 1965, first at North Terrace and then at the new school at Glenunga. I was a member of Cavendish House and played hockey for the school in each of the five years of my attendance. In 1965 I was editor of the school magazine and also the founder and first editor of the school newspaper “Tech Talk”.

After leaving school I became a primary school teacher, a Principal and finally an Education Administrator. In 1989 I was elected to the State Parliament where I served as the Member for Hayward and later the Member for Unley and as a Shadow Minister and Minister in portfolios ranging from water resources to training, youth, employment and local government.

I joined the Committee of the Association as President in 2006 and served in the position for 10 years.

Forthcoming Events

Queensland Reunion Lunch

Former students of AHS, GHS and GHS now living in Queensland are reminded that there is to be a lunch at the Royal Queensland Golf Club on:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 12 NOON FOR 12.30 SIT DOWN.

As for last year, the lunch will be based on the menu of the day (a la carte) with drinks purchased from the bar. Details of how to find the Golf Club will be sent with a reminder in July but for now, any queries should be referred to Membership Secretary Ian Saunders who will be organising the event.

Annual Luncheon

The 2017 Annual Luncheon will be held on 11 October at a venue yet to be determined. Full details of the event and a booking form will be provided in the September Newsletter. Please note the date on your calendars and think about arranging a table for you and a group of your former classmates. If you need help to contact your school-friends the Secretary will be pleased to assist.

Centenary Celebrations

Next year will mark the centenary of the adoption of the name “Adelaide Technical High School” and the association is planning to mark the occasion with some events which are to be part of South Australia’s History Week celebrations.

We would welcome suggestions from members as to the type of event they would like to see as part of the celebration.

Committee Contact Details

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